

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1905. Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-

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it our friends who fapor us with manuscript must in all cases send slamps for that purpose.

The Control of the Equitable. At that meeting of the directors of which was made forever memorable by the assuasive eloquence of Senator DEPEW, instructions were given to a committee to prepare a plan, not only of mutualization but also of elimination of the stockholders' controlling interest. The date was Feb. 16, a month ago to-day. The resolutions then adopted imposed upon the committee of seven two distinct but correlative duties, namely:

1. The arrangement of details for carrying into effect at the earliest possible moment the principle that policyholders should have the right to vote for directors.

2. The settlement of the allied question of the indemnification of stockholders.

The foregoing statement of the functions with which the committee was charged a month ago is almost exactly in the language of the resolutions adopted on Feb. 16. The settlement of "the allied question of the indemnification of stockholders" seemed to imply, so far as | it has never existed in the United States. ordinary intelligence was able to understand ordinary language, that control of the management of the company's vast business and resources by the policyholders, as the real owners of the \$414,-000,000 of accumulated assets, was at that time regarded as naturally involving the retirement, with compensation, of the stockholding interest heretofore absolute in its power.

It is therefore with some concern that singleminded if not simpleminded policyholders will note that the committee's report, rendered day before yesterday with unexpected unanimity, ignores altogether the "allied question of indemnification" of stockholders, while announcing that the compromise plan has "the express consent and approval past month there have been more or less part of aspiring financiers to pay millions for face thousands of the majority stock, even though that stock, with its dividends limited to seven per cent., would be worth scarcely two hundred as a mere investment.

The question which is likely to occur mutualization is whether the willingness | wage for their services. of the controlling stockholders to waive the matter of indemnification indicates of absolute power during the four-year much longer of opportunities like the opportunities of the past.

Mr. Conried's Troubles in Boston. Mr. CONRIED'S lamentations over the indifference of Boston to the excellencies of his grand opera company are human, if not philosophic. His predecessor used to remain silent when Boston refused him not only profit, but expenses. He counted upon some other city's interest in music to make up for his losses there, and taking the good along with the bad, gave his seasons with ultimate profit. Mr. CONRIED'S term as impresario has lasted only two years, and in the future he may feel less keerly a

loss that may soon be made up. But his surprise that a large city should manifest so little interest in the opportunity to hear grand opera for only six nights in the year may well be un- affairs. If any official's pay is to be derstood. Through supporting one of changed, it is the duty of the local authe finest orchestras in the world, Boston | thorities to change it, and as long as they has acquired a fictitious reputation as a have the power to do so no appeal for musical city, and should presumably hail with delight a brief season of opera with the best available singers. But its citizens stayed away and Mr. Con-RIED says he will never return.

Possibly it is the existence of its famous orchestra that makes Boston indifferent to the visits of New York's opera company. The Metropolitan Opera House is made possible through the subscriptions of the stockholders, who occupy the parterre boxes. The fashionable and wealthy Bostonians are as important to their orchestra; and local pride centres in it and them. The orchestra belongs to Boston and represents it musically to the rest of the country, just as New York exclusively posreases the opera company. Boston appreciates no necessity of going out of its way to show interest in the performances of the opera company, since only a part of the enterprise is really brought from this city. The singers, to be sure, are there, but where are the box holders who are such an important part of the New York spectacle? Boston wants also to see them. The subscribers to the Boston orchestra's concerts refuse to fill the boxes when Mr. CONBIED comes to town; so there is only opera

to appeal to the public. New York is luckily not so exacting and patronizes the Boston orchestra supporters ever adorn Carnegie Hall

it is doubtful if persons able to come to New York do not prefer to hear grand opera here with all its accompanying plendor rather than in their own towns.

Mr. Bryan on Popular Government. The Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN looks into the seeds of time and tells his Commoner, appropriately named vehicle of the Peerless, what he sees: " Sooner or later popular government, in

best sense of the term, will be restored." Mr. BRYAN reaches a glad hand to Mr. ROOSEVELT, but evidently Mr. ROOSE-

VELT is not restoring "popular government" as his Lincoln friend understands and loves it. For what is "popular government in

the best sense of the term "?

Not government according to the Constitution of the United States. Not a government the executive of which is not chosen directly by popular vote; and the makers of the Constitution meant that the Presidential electors should be the Equitable Life Assurance Company real electors, not mere proxies and nuppets.

A Congress of two chambers, the members of one of which represent the States, and are chosen by the Legislaturesthat is not popular government in the best and Bryanic sense of the term.

Mr. BRYAN is the Nebraska Jefferson and the Fairview Jackson; but neither under Jefferson nor Jackson was there such a popular government. Neither JEFFERSON nor JACKSON would have had any use for such a government. Representative government, a mixed and indirectly popular government, was good enough for them.

So "popular government" cannot be restored," even if Mr. BRYAN should be settled in the White House. He might wake up Moses and cut down ABSALOM and restore NABOTH's vineyard, but popular government he could not restore. There cannot be a WILLIAM the Restorer to outshine ELIJAH the Restorer. Popular government can't be "restored," for

means Senators elected by popular vote, perpetual initiative and referendum, government by popular convention. Who wants this Bryanized popular government? Who wants to put the

"Popular government," Bryan style,

Constitution out of business? Well, not the "common people," perhaps, but the Commoner people.

Pay of the Borough Presidents. Senator KEENAN, who comes from that section of New York city which was formerly known as Long Island City, where the Hon. BATTLE AXE GLEASON was succeeded by the Hon. JOSEPH CASSIDY, ruler of the Democracy of Queens and President of the Borough, has introduced in the Legislature an amendment of Mr. Hype as the representative of the to the Charter of New York under which majority of the capital stock of the it is proposed to increase the pay of From time to time during the each of the five Borough Presidents to \$10,000 a year. Under the existing credible reports of the willingness on the statute the Presidents of Manhattan, The Bronx and Brooklyn receive \$7,500 a year each. In Queens and Richmond the salaries are \$3,000 each, so that it costs the city \$32.500 a year to pay these important officials. If Mr. KEENAN'S bill were passed, this annual expense would be increased by \$17,500, and all to the minds of the advocates of reals the Presidents would receive the same

Whether the Borough Presidents should receive higher salaries than those now that they think they are surrendering paid to them is a question worth considnothing that is really valuable to them; ering, but Mr. KEENAN'S bill, like many or, again, whether they consider that other measures for the amendment of the proposed extension of the process of the city's Charter, is one that should not mutualization over four years by the be passed by the Legislature under any mutualization over four years by the be passed by the change if would bring as to "Spinster," she may have been an "old gradual election, in bunches of seven, circumstances, regardless of the justice or single.

As to "Spinster," she may have been an "old of the change it would bring the but more are abably she is but now ters, offers indemnification enough in about. In section 56 of the Charter the the shape of the continued satisfaction | power to increase, reduce and fix the salaries of every person whose compenperiod, and the enjoyment for that sation is paid out of the city treasury except "day laborers, and teachers, examiners and members of the supervising staff of the Department of Education" is delegated to the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Estimate. These bodies, in each of which the Borough Presidents have seats and votes, can rearrange salaries as they please, raising or decreasing them as seems wise, and as long as this power exists efforts to bring about legislative action on such matters should be discountenanced.

> Senator KEENAN is an advocate of "home rule" for New York in the campaign season. "Home rule" is a good enough club with which to whack the Legislature when it is not in session, but many of those who cherish this principle in October themselves seek in March to have the Albany lawmakers take a hand in managing New York's municipal interference by the Legislature should be made or granted.

The Supreme Court Reporter. A bill has been introduced in the State Senate to amend the Code of Civil Proreporter, the real object of which is to the form of a leaser, in which the great states. oust MARCUS T. HUN of Albany, who for the "dead hand"! twenty-one years has well served the bar and the State as Supreme Court reporter, and to change the existing system so that hereafter the Supreme Court reporter shall receive an annual salary of \$5,000, and the expense of printing reports shall become a charge upon the State. In other words, it is proposed to eject from his office the present very able and conscientious reporter, who is liked by the public, by the bench and by the bar, and to have the State further extend its printing business by taking charge of the Appellate Division Reports, as it has already taken charge of the reports of the Court of Appeals. We are opposed to this change. Like the State ownership or municipal ownership of public utilities. State printing is a marked failure, as has been demonstrated in various States.

In another part of to-day's SUN the substance of Mr. Hun's letter addressed to the Justices of the Appellate Division of this State is published, and the figures therein submitted prove conclusively the loyally, although none of its noted home | inadvisability of any change in existing law. The only charge made against with their presence. Mr. CONRIED may Mr. HUN is that he makes too much

publisher, \$2,000 a volume, making \$22,000 a year, but the expenses incident to his work are large, and for the last five years his profits have only averaged

\$9,749.31 for each year. This objection or criticism is childish. Good work should, at least, be decently paid for, and we believe it would be a public misfortune if the bar and litigants or people in general interested in litigation should be deprived by hostile if not envious action of the competent services of MARCUS T. HUN.

Senator La FOLLETTE of Wisconsin, who s one of the strongest believers in Government rate regulation, says in a recently

published article: "The work of the commission in fixing rust stand or fail as it meets the tests which will be applied in a court of appeals, where such work is very certain to go for review. To be sustained, rates must be just and reasonable to the railway rations. In fixing the rate, therefore, if the commission is to do justice to the public, is must reduce the rate as much as possible, and still make it fairly and justly remunerative and profitable to the railway companies. This requires a technical and expert knowledge of traffic conditions and of the cost of railway construction, maintenance and operation. Whenever test is made in court of the work of railway commissioners they will find them-selves confronted by the ablest traffic experts in the employ of the great railway companies. they should be fitted to combat."

The Senator is noted for his directness of statement and is plainly honest when he declares that the present agitation is for

According to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, "it is not improbable" that Governor FRAZIER will be Mr. BATR'S SUCCESSOF AS a Senator in Congress from Tennessee. "Some say" that our old friend the Hon. BENTON McMILLIN ought to have the job. Ex-Governor Bos TATLOR "is thought of." Tenderly thought of, wherever music and song are loved. But does nobody think of the Hon, JOHN WESLEY GAINES, that "monumental pile of brains"? Wait till the voice of the people makes itself heard.

Senator FECHTER's bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in department stores recalls old times when all Legislatures, Boards of Aldermen and similar congresses of genius were in a perpetral state of heat and indignation agains, the big shops in which everything from a menagerie to a carpet is sold. Nowadays the department stores are not denounced as much as they were then, or as much as their success deserves. It is gratifying to find that at least one lawmaker holds fast to the faith and undaunted dares to attack the greedy octopi of the shopping districts.

Discontent in Russian Poland. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A French paper publishes a curious letter indersed by the Polish Socialist party in Cracow in Austrian Galicia, according to which a number of the workmen of Dombrova, Sosnowice and other communities in the coal region of Russian Poland have determined to appeal to the English Government in the hope that it may intervene and annex the province, placing it under a different administration. On the other hand, the German mine and factory owners have addressed themselves factory owners have addressed themselves to the Foreign Office at Berlin asking the German Government to try to make arrangements with the Russian for the despatch of German troops to Sosnowice and other places for the protection of their properties. The request was not entertained at Berlin, though it is affirmed that an offer was made to St. Petersburg to send simili defachments of German troops into the disturbed districts to assist the Russians in maintaining order.

The truth of the matter may never be known, but on arrangement was arrived at by which detachments of Prussian gendarmen are authorized to pass the Russian frontier in cases where the interests of Germans are affected by the prevailing disturbances. At the same time orders have been given to the custom house officials and frontier guards to exercise vigilance in preventing the smuggling of arms lyto Russian territory.

New York, March 12.

When Girlhood Ends. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SEN-SIF: "Spinster," who writes to you underdated March 13. has desorthed her legal status by her signature, that ie, a maid. The term "old maid" may be difficult to define: in fact, the attributes which constitute an "old maid" are intangible, but we receignize one on sight. Shimsy be 18 years or 80. She may even he married

As to "Spinster," she may have been an one maid" all her life, but more probably she is het more and never will be one. Her friends could tell without stopping to this?. To her friends of her own age and older, universa she becomes a matron, she will be a "gir!" indefinitely. To the rest of the world with which she comes in contact she will be a girl or a woman according to her physical or mental development (or both). An "old maid" is never a "girl" at any age except

ONE OF THE BOYS. NEW YORE, March 15.

TO THE PDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: This is the answer of a boy of 80 to the query of "Spinster." who asks when a girl ceases to be a girl and becomes an old maid. A girl is a girl just as long as she feels like a girl, and she may remain an unmarried woman all her days and yet not be an "old maid," unless she allows herself to degenerate into one. A sound, sane, sensible girl of 33 is a som of girl ighty hard to beat. For Heaven's sake, keep on saying "us girls" and avoid the "old maids," in name and in fact, as you would a pestilence. Read "The Transfiguration of Miss Philuts." It'll do BACHELOB. NEW YORK, March 14.

The Dead Hand. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. I read with nuch interest in THE SUN of this morning the anouncement that Mr. Richard Crotter had been kind enough, nearly four years in advance, to pick out a Presidential candidate for the Democratic had also seen in THE SUN some days before that

the Democratic Club of this city was making ar rangements to celebrate the birthday of Thoma son on April 13, and that this too had been undertaken by the advice of Mr. Croker.

Both these statements being true, why should not the Croker candidate be the principal guestat

the Croker dinher?

I was reminded that perhaps Mr. Croker, in the elegant leisure and retirement which he is enjoying in one of the suburbs of Dublin, might find something to engage his mind if he would take down from his library shelves a volume of Jefferson's works—any one of the many editions on his shelves

man and philosopher describes the A GOLD DEMOCRAT. NEW YORE. March 18.

Race Suicide and the Majority.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In an adito the Congress of Mothers in to-day's issue, you say "most Americans hold these elementary and old feahioned opinions." Will you kindly state upon what you base your view that most Americans agree with Mr. Roosevelt's large family idea? Not only is the birth rate of the native dead against your claim, but the fact that the majority of Ameriins do not agree with him on this subject is what AN OBSERVER. NEW YORK, March 15.

The "old native" stock, that of New Engand, for instance, needs his admonitions Are they needed by the majority of Americans of other stocks, Irish, Italian, Jewish, and so on? It seems to us that the majority of Americans agree with Mr. Roosevelt's views. He expresses those views for the reproof of the minority and for the satisfaction of his sense of duty. Does our correspondent think that Mr. Roosevelt utters only minority opinions and preaches novel-

The practical side of the Garden Magarine stands out in the April "planting" number. The con-densed information about planting time in the two for vegetables and for flowers is just what every amateur gardener wants at this season. There are besides readable and beautifully Illusbe more successful in awakening the money out of editing the reports. He fashionable interest of other cities. But recites, under his contract with the queril bits of information on a multisude of topics.

CANADA'S SCHOOL QUESTION.

OTTAWA, March 15 .- The situation regarding the Autonomy bill is becoming mewhat tense, although it is not yet alarming. While the people here are seeking some acceptable compromise, Roman Catholic element of Quebec is insisting that the Premier shall stand by his provision for separate and sectarian schools in the proposed new provinces, and the people of the Northwest are standing with equal emphasis for a full provincial au-

The Montreal Star prints reports of meetings of Protestant Church bodies, presbyteries and ministerial associations protesting against the Laurier measure. Orange societies are announcing a similar attitude Speaking on the floor of the House on Thursday last, Mr. R. L. Borden, the leader of the Opposition, virtually charged the Premier with having submitted his bill to the Parliament without regard to a constitutional usage which would oblige its previous submission to all the Cabinet. He stated that it had not been submitted to Mr. Sifton, and intimated that it might not have been submitted in full to other members of the Cabinet. While this was a political move, its intimation was not a little serious.

Thus far the discussion has been confined chiefly to the school issue. Behind that is a question of land ownership and another of Federal appropriations. have been submerged by the larger issue, but both are likely to create a more vigorous controversy than was at first expected, and, the school matter being disposed of, an active contest may be expected on the

other questions.

At present the lines on the school issue are tightly drawn throughout the country Broadly, it is a struggle between the old Canada and the new. Should the old Canada win, even on the basis of a compromise, the matter will come up again, as it did in Manitona a few years ago. It was adjusted them by a compromise, but it was not settled. Nor is it at all likely to be settled until the new Canada, the Canada of the twentieth century rather than that of the eighteenth century, shall have carried its point. When that is done, Quebeo can have its sectarian schools, if that be its preference, and the Northwest will decide for itself whether its funds shall maintain separate schools or be applied to such a public school system as that which obtains in the United States.

Russia's Financial Weakness.

To the Editor of The SUN-Sir. The other day the Russian Minister of Finance boasted: "We can finally win the war at this desk." But can they? It is safe to say that Russia's economic resources and finances are in a most critical condition. What has become of the great Russian loan which was projected for January or February last in 'rance' For months Paris drew gold from New York and London for the purpose of this loan, but no loan came. Well posted finan-cial circles in London fully believe that the project has received its quietus because the customers of the French banking houses, usually docile, refused this time to subscribe. The Franco-Russian alliance, a hollow thing at best, was not strong enough to draw more oney for Russia out of the already heavily drawn upon French stockings. Then cam more Russian financial losses in the Far East,

drawn upon French stockings. The Bask, with the St. Petersburg massacre and internal disturbances (still existing) as a climax. These things were not by any means conducive to a restoration of French confidence in Russian securities.

Now comes the crowning disaster of Mukden, with its loss of millions of dollars value, in Russian property destroyed and captured. It must also be remembered that Russia's public debt—the largest in the world—alfeady exceeds \$4,000,000,000, entailing an annual interest charge of at least \$200,000,000. At the same time Russia's earning power is greatly reduced by the withdrawn industrial and agricultural despicity of the nundreds of thousands of mer, she has sent to the Far East. Published Russian statistics are too sparse and meagre to justify an estimate of this loss, but it must be enormous.

It must also be borne in mind that Russian loyalty to the Government is not of the Japanese kind, or Russia would not always, when she wants money, be compelled to go to foreign money centres to get it. Not a sign has yet been in evidence of any willingness on the part of the Russian people to respond to a call for a domestin loan, should one be made by

part of the nussion, should be people of the for a domestic loan, should be Russian Government. The people of the country of "You must and you must not nusy have money dragged out of them, but they will never rush, as do the Japanese, to put all they have at the disposal of their Government. A financial strain willingly borner ment.

Again, look at the fearful losses in money Again, look at the fearful losses in money aready incurred, and increasing daily from the strikes prevalent all over Russia in Furope. Further, the absorption of the Siberian railway for military purposes is paralyzing Russian commerce. All things considered, Russia is no better fitted than is Japan, if as well, to stand the financial strain of this war for many months longer. Walter J. Ballard.

SCHENFCTADY, March 15. An Admirer of Morales. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In view of your editorial article on Carlos Morales I beg leave o quote in full a letter written by me to a United

states Senator.
As a reasonably intelligent American citizen. having interests in Santo Demingo, I think the conclusions reached, which are free from bias or prejudice, are entitled, at least, to more considera-tion than the opinions of the exiled revolutionist or the average newspaper correspondent.

"DHAR SIR: I regret to see your opposition to the pending treaty between this Government and Santo Domingo. I am confident if you knew not the situation there but the epportunities under proper conditions for the investment of American capital as I do, that you would sustain the proposed protocol. There is a country almost in sight of Porto Rice on the east and Cuba on the west nearly equal in square miles to the latter and more fertile and with vastly superior resources than either. Its development has been throttled

than either. Its development has been throtted by the unnecessary and easily prevented internal strife. I have visited the interior of the country, have studied the people and their leaders, and am thoroughly familiar with their peculiar characteristics and the causes of their troubles.

"The people generally are peaceable, ignorant, but honest, and when given employment are industrious. They have no initiative, hence create nothing which would trad to develop the marvellous resources under their very eyes and feet. The under their very eyes and feet. eaders are educated, alert, combative, and in many instances dishonest. The people are easily swayed by their respective leaders and are led to revolutionary acts, absolutely ignorant of the object or character of the result. The primary object of the leaders is the immediate possession of the custom houses, the receipts from which are absolutely essential to maintain a revolution against the Gov erament in power and are frequently utilized for

"The key, therefore, to the situation is the custom house. Without it the revolution is a failure in its incipiency. Therefore, in the interests of civilizaion, practically in our very midst, in the interest of the Dominioans themselves and their beautiful and wonderfully fertile country, some peaceable steps, at least, should be taken by our Government to remove the cause of Santo Domingo's lack of development, which will insure permanent peace and enable the speedy liquidation of their honest obligations.

"As to President Morales, I know him personally well. He is a comparatively young man, thor-oughly educated, speaks English fluently, a man of ability, force of character, with integrity of purprogressive, and popular with those who an honest and stable government.
"Yours very truly, J. L. Robertson."

NEW YORK, March 10.

Reformed by the Strike. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A noticeable change since the strike has come over the guards on the elevated and subway. There is no more "Chit-tumsquager Chittyal" or "Batter yer face," but a comprehensible progunciation of the station armes. This is one thing that it is to be koped will NEW Yong, March 15.

Fashions for spring naturally take first place in the Delineator for April and are shown off in plain and colored pictures. Literature is represented r short stories by popular writers, by a little verse and by an account of Haus Christian Andersen. Mrs. Moore describes lustre ware. Mr. G. Kobbe talks about the stage, and there are articles jects relating to the household,

THE FORGOTTEN ISLAND.

Unhappy Pright of the Neglected Residents of Perio Rico. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: spirited paper has been so generously outspoken toward the "forgotten island" and so gallantly hospitable to all her numerous friends, that I do not doubt for a moment you will permit a faithful admirer to recall a famous incident apropos of the arguments is

your editorial of yesterday.

The question of the Porto Ricans' political status, trivial and trifling in the estimation of many Americans, is more real, more earnest to us than even the economical one, taking into consideration that, right or wrong, we look at the latter as the natural offspring of the former. Judging by the nonchalant way in which our learned mentors treat the subject of the Porto Ricans' lack of nationality, we draw the inference that it is unimportant to them whether we have it or not, but for their benefit we let them know that on that dolorous question our country's dignity is at stake, as well as our purse and personal interests. The question of the nationalization of Porto Rico does not belong to the abstract class, as you will see by the following occurrence in connection with the workings of the United States immigration laws in conflict with our undefined status. During the summer of 1902 Isabel González,

a niece of my wife and a native of Porto Rico. arrived at the port of New York. She was detained at Ellis Island and anybody who has been detained in that pen knows what it means—as an "alien" liable to become a public charge and excluded from admission into the United States, in spite of my American citizenship and my guaranteed assurances of her support as a member of my family. At the eleventh hour, and when she was in danger of deportation to her native island, I enlisted the legal services of Former Assistant Dis trict Attorney Charles E. Le Barbier, who, through a writ of habeas corpus, got her safe from the grasp of the immigration board of examination onto the soil of Manhattan. They were going to send her back to Porto Rico, just as they would send her back to Austria-Hungary or Turkey if she had come from there. She was taken before the United States Circuit Court of New York, and Judge La combe gave an adverse decision, holding

combe gave an adverse decision, holding that she was a "foreigner." As the case involved the status of thousands, possibly millions, of people who, whatever else they may be, were and are subject to the American laws and the American will and government, the case was taken and partially won before the United States Supreme Court by Messrs. Coudert and Le Barbier. That tribunal, from the lofty height of its judicial wisdom, decided that it had not decided anything. It left the nationality of the Porto Micans in suspense.

the nationality of the Porto michas in a very pense.

There is another case that shows in a very unmistakable way the embarrassing situation confronting "Meesrs. Nobody from Newhere," the Porto Ricans, in the matter of nationalization. Some of these unfortunate people went to the Vinited States Commissioner and asked if they could be naturalized. The Commissioner told them they must for swear their allegiance. They were very much embarrassed as to what allegiance they would forswear, and they told him that they had none except that of the United States. In other words, the naturalization laws do not allow one to forswear allegiance to the other words, the naturalization laws do not allow one to forswear allegiance to the United States in order to give allegiance to the United States and become a citizen.

Naturally, it would appear from the Anglo-Saxon point of view that the solution of the economic question by itself alone would appease the complaints of the islanders. The history does not present a single case of an upheaval in a Latin country where economic reasons have been the principal factor for a collision between the propie and the men in power. Political reasons are stronger in the mind of the people than the pangs of hunger from an empty stomach.

New YORE, March 15.

RIPE YEARS AND USEFULNESS. Reflections of an Alert Octogenarian on Dr. William Osler's Theory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Siz: A man does not generally reach full mental and physical maturity until about 25, and the usual rule is that the life period extends about times the period of maturity, giving to well born human beings a normal age of about 125 years. Dr. William Osler's theory would shorten the period of useful existence to only

about fifteen years.

Time and space will not permit a recital of the names of men eminent in all departments of human activity who have achieved fame and distinction when over 40. In this State Judges sit on the bench until 70, and no lawye or client ever complained that their decisions made during the period between 60 and 70 were less lucid and able than those made prior to that date. Justice Stephen J. Field sat on the Supreme Court bench of the United States when over 80. In a recent case involving several millions of dollars a retired septuagenarian Justice of the New York Court of Appeals was selected as referee by the par instead of any boy lawyer in the State under to, and his able decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeals. Occasionally lawyers and ex-Judges over 70 argue cases in the Court of Appeals. Examples need not be explicitled.

multiplied.

Our legislators are now urged by retired Justices over 70 and their friends to have them appointed as permanent referees in the city of New York. Army and navy officers retired at 84 are numerous in Washington and other cities, many of whom are able physically and cities, many of whom are able physically and mentally to perform their duties for many

rears more. Irreverence for old age is a fault of our

years more.

Irreverence for old age is a fault of our country and we can be taught leasons on this subject by the "yellow" Japanese and the "heathen" Chinese. Has Japan taken any important steps in the Russian war without a "Council of the Eiders?

The lack of wisdom and the often stupid impetuosity of men under 40 have damaged the human race more than the wise counsels and uselessness" of men over 60. Perhaps Dr. Osler when he reaches his threescore years may have clearer visions on this and many other subjects and may not be quite ready for the "fatal hemiock."

As we near the bridge over the Styxthe elements of passion, jealousy, envy, malice and uncharitableness are ordinarily eliminated from influencing and blassing human judgment and an almost preternatural vision inspires the intellect of the aged seer and prophet. Old age merely of itself evidences superior mental, moral and physical qualities.

Even the savage Iroquois Indians taught

ties.

Even the savage Iroquois Indians taught the lesson that "It is the will of the Good Spirit that you reverence the aged even though they be as helpless as infants." (Morgan, p. 165.)

though they be as helpless as infants." (Morgan, p. 165.)
An octogenarian can best judge of the decenniums of his past life, and it is entirely possible for one to live at \$0 or \$0 in full possession of his intellectual faculties and without an ache or a bodily pain. It is worry that generally shortens life. If only war could be abolished from the earth and the evils of tobacco, opium and intemperance eliminated, such an enormous sum could be added to the wealth of the world that the means of sanitation and the methods of living could be so improved as to add many years to the average period of human existence.

Let medical science turn in this direction instead of toward the dewnward grade of "Osleriam." (An Octogenariev, Plus.)

Albany, March 16.

ALBANY, March 14.

Varieties of Insurance.

From the Insurance Press

"How many kinds of insurance are there;" asks a correspondent of the Insurance Press. By coincidence we received in the same mail the busi ness card of an enterprising local insurance agency n a Western city which claims to have on sale 'all kinds of insurance and bonds." Here is the Western agency's list: Fire, life, safe, rents, theft, eredit, patent, marine, tornado, accident, burglary sprinkier, lightning, plate glass, transportation tourists' baggage, bank and messenger robbery tailors' and furniture floaters', physicians' and druggists' Hability; travellers' samples, fidelity, official, guaranteed altorney's department, contract, judicial and court bonds, teams, health, postal, elevator, casualty, flywheel, leascholds automobile, contingent, steam boiler, landlord's liability, use and occupancy, employer's liability workmen's collective, liquor dealers' licease, genera liability, hold-up insurance, bank accounts.

> Big Maine Pines. From the Norway Advertises

Not all of the old growth pines have disappeared from the Pine Tree State, but the survivors are disappearing. Several of them went in North Waterford the other day, when Elton York cut three immense pines in the pasture and hauled shem to the mill to be made into box boards. The largest was four feet in diameter and showed 186 armual rings. So passes the glory of the forest, to be made into soap boxes.

From the Allecheny County Reporter, Mrs. Eunice Hasard had a sick spell Thursday white alone. Mrs. Hattle and Mrs. Marjon Hasard happened to go there for a visit that day and found her. Her pies had been in the oven two hours. She

APPELLATE DIVISION REPORTS. Marous T. Hun, Supreme Court Reporter,

Shows What His Compensation Is. Marcus T. Hun, who has been Supreme Court reporter for thirty-one years, has written a letter to the Justices of the Appellate Division in regard to the bill favorably reported to the Legislature by the committee on Codes, which would change the present system of reporting the opinions of the Appellate Division so as to make the expense of editing the opinions a State charge, nstean of requiring the law publisher to pay the expense and reimburse himself in the price charged to lawyers.

Mr. Hun says that he does not wish to be regarded as criticising any action the Legisregarded as crincising any action the Legis-lature may take, but desires to let the Court know of existing conditions. In the fall of 1900, he says, the contract he had with a law publishing firm for the publication expired, and the firm insisted that in making a new contract it should be allowed to charge the profession for "the combined official series" at the rate of allowed to charge the profession for "the combined official series" at the rate of \$40 a vear, instead of \$35, the former price. Mr. Hun consulted the Justices, refused to consent to the increase, and finally contracted with another firm at the old rate. Since then, he says, statements have been persistently made that the Supreme Court reporter was receiving an excessive compensation, and a bill has preme Court reporter was feed as the consense of the compensation, and a bill has been presented to the Legislature yearly to change the system. A legislative committee inquiry showed that such statements were unjustified, and up to this time the Legislature has refused to make any change. Mr. Hun gives a table of his service and expenditures for five years. any change. Mr. Hun gives a table of his receipts and expenditures for five years, which shows that the average amount realized by him has been \$9,749.

realized by him has been \$9,749.

The Supreme Court reporter receives no money from the State Treasury. Last year, for editing eleven volumes of reports, the publisher paid him \$22,000. His expenses were \$13,069, for the salaries of his force, rent, postage and copies of opinions.

Mr. Hun calculates that each volume of Appellate Division reports costs the entire legal profession of this State \$1,900.45. The State pays nothing of this. He tells the Justices that these facts may better enable them to decide whether it is better to let the system remain as it is or transfer the expense to the State. expense to the State.

SIAM GOES AGAINST GAMBLING.

To Ask Leave to Increase Import Duties That It May Abolish License Fees. The United States is to be asked by the King of Siam to help him put a stop to legalized gambling in his country, according to advices received yesterday by the Rev. Dr. / rthur J. Brown, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Similar requests are to go to England, Germany and other Christian nations. The request is for permission to raise the import duties, in order that a part of the revenue now accruing from the gambling concessions throughout Siam may be thus replaced. The larger part of the revenue will be derived from an increased land tax. Siam is an extra-territorial country, and its import duties are regulated by treaty with America and the European nations and cannot be changed without their con-

The Rev. Dr. Brown explained yesterday The Rev. Dr. Brown explained yesterday that gambling has been the national vice of Siam. Every little town and village has its "official" gambling house, licensed by the Government. Bangkok the capital and other large towns have each a number of gambling places operated under official patronage. All these places are conducted openly, and in many of them free entertainments are given nightly to attract people to come and play.

"The King of Siam is, for an Asiatic monarch, enlightened and progressive, continued Dr. Brown. "He has had his son, the Crown Prince, educated in England,

continued Dr. Brown. "He has had his son, the Crown Prince, educated in England, and is earnestly trying to rule Siam in the interest of the people. The missionaries, led by the Rev. Dr. Eugene P. Dunlap, have long pointed out to the King that the gambling habit is inimical to the best interests of Siam, and the King has now come around to this view." to this view.

BEARD FROM AFTER 53 YEARS. James Travis, for Whom a Legacy Has Been Waiting, Turns Up in Australia.

After a silence of fifty-three years, James Travis, now a resident of Australia, has been heard from by his brother, Ira U. Travis, a wealthy resident of Flushing, who lives at 245 Madison avenue. A persistent search for James Travis had been made for the last twelve years. Adver- tained at dinner this evening in honor of tisements had been put in newspapers all over the world and he saw one of these in an Australian newspaper.

The Travis family lived originally in Glen Cove, L. I., When he was 20 years old James Travis shipped on a whaler and since that time nothing had been heard from him until the letter arrived yesterday. A relative of the Travis brothers died twelve years ago, leaving to each of the brothers \$90,000. It was then that a special effort was made to find the miss-ing man.

ing man.

James Travis wrote that long ago he had
married an English girl, and was the father
of eleven children. He had been successful in Australia and had a large property there. The legacy which he will receive has been drawing interest for twelve years.

JIU-DO.

A New System of Japanese Athletics to

Be Demonstrated at Columbia. Tsunejiro Tomita, a professor of physical culture in the Peers' College, Tokio, is to give an exhibition of what is known as jiu-do," next Tuesday evening at Columbia University. This is a new Japanese exercise slightly resembling jiu-jitsu. It really combines a few features of jiu-jitsu, which is the ancient system of self-defence, with a

complete system of training.

Control of the muscles is the thing principally aimed at. Followers of jiu-do learn, among other things, how to fall properly. One of the Japanese students at Columbia said yesterday of the system that by its aid a man falling out of an automobile could

land safely.

Jiu-do is taught by Prof. Tomita both to men and women. It is a new system invented about thirty years ago by Prof. Kano, of the Kodo-Rwan, Tokio. It is three-fold, teaching the development and control of the muscles, self-defence and the training of presence of mind.

LETTER FROM JEFF DAVIS. Wrote Franklin Pierce That He'd Stand by the Flag as Long as Possible.

HILLSBORO, N. H., March 15 .- Kirk Pierce of this town, a nephew of President Franklin Pierce, has found an autograph letter written by Jefferson Davis to Franklin Pierce among other documents inherited from his uncle. Mr. Davis wrete from the Senate Chamber, under date of Jan. 30, 1860, saying:
"The prospect for our country is not less

"The prospect for our country is not less gloomy than when you left. I will stand by the flag and uphold the Constitution while there is possibility of effecting anything to preserve and perpetuate the Government we inherited. Beyond that my duty and my faith bind me to Mississippi and her fortunes as she may shape them."

NO MORE MORTGAGE BURNING. Or, at Least, a Church Must Wait Ten Years to Celebrate That Way.

There will be no mortgage burning on Sunday next in the Eighty-sixth Street Methodist Episcopal Church after all, for manded yesterday his order of Tuesday, directing Register Ronner to deliver the mortgage bond to the church trustees. It appears that a law passed in 1903 requires that satisfied mortgages shall be left on file in the Register's office for ten years, so that the old fashloned way of celebrating the satisfaction of the deed by burning it is no longer practicable.

Washington, Maron is.

It appears that a law passed in 1903 requires that satisfied mortgages shall be church of the Incarnation, by the Rev. William Tayloe Snyder, rector of the church. Mr. Justice is a well known new-paper correspondent, connected with the Church of Vary New York World.

New York and Miss Julia V. Townsend of this city, were married to-day at 11 o'clock in the Church of the Incarnation, by the Rev. William Tayloe Snyder, rector of the church. Mr. Justice is a well known new-paper correspondent, connected with the church of the Incarnation, by the city city of the city of the course of the course of the church of the Incarnation, by the church of the icity of the city o

TO HELP JAP ORPHAN GIRLS. All Sorts of Stants Bone by Native Enter-

tainers at Mrs. Takamine's Tea. Friends of Mrs. Jokichi Takamine of 43 Hamilton terrace got an idea yesterday of what a Japanese entertainment was like Mrs. Takamine, who is a Japanese by virtue of having married her husband, she herself being a European, gave an entertainment and a tea at her house for the benefit of the Seiko Girls' School of Tokio, which cares for children orphaned by the war. The house was beautifully decorated

with soft Japanese hangings and art objects not put there for this particular occasion. It is always so. In one of the rooms was a platform which looked like a divan upon which the entertainment was given.

First came Mr. Ito, a very funny man.
He sat down tailor-fashion and gave a comic
history of Japanese wars. It was so funny
that the artist himself was moved to laugh-

Unfortunately none of the near enough to hear understood Japanese.

Nearly all present were Americans.

Another Japanese delighted the company with music on a kind of exaggerated banjo, and then Mrs. Katsuda and Mr. Nakatsuka played a duet on a kind of fute and a kind of gither.

of gither.
Then Messrs. Koman and Kotome of the Kitamura company performed such tumblings and jugglings and twistings on the divan that people stood on tiptoe to see. This was in Japanese, too, but everybody understood if This was in Junderstood it.

After that pretty Morningside girls wearafter that pretty and mande gaves in gapotheosized kimones and flowers in their hair served tea and ice cream. The house was crowded all day, and the little orphan girls in Tokio ought to come into something handsome from Mrs. Takamine's entertainment.

SIDNEY DILLON RIPLEY'S WILL.

Balk of His Property Left in Trust for His Wife for Life.

MINEOLA, March 15 .- The will of Sidney Dillon Ripley, treasurer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was filed this morning in the office of the Surrogate of Nassau county at Mineola, where Mr. Ripley had resided for some years.

No mention is made of the extent of the estate, which is supposed to be more than \$5,000,000. In an attached affidavit it is stated that the property is worth over \$10,000 and that no real estate is held in

\$10,000 and that no real estate is held in New York State.
The will was signed Feb. 3, 1900, and the executors are the wife of the deceased. Mary Baldwin Ripley, and the Mercantile Trust Company of New York. The entire property is to be held in trust by them to pay the income to Mrs. Ripley and upon her death the property is divided equally between her four children, Anna Dillon Ripley, Henry B. H. Ripley, Sidney Dillon Ripley, and James Hyde Ripley. Should Mrs. Ripley and her four children die without issue, Julian Ripley, a brother of the deceased, receives three-quarters of the estate and the remaining one-quarter goes deceased, received and the remaining one-quarter goes to Florence Dillon Wyckoff, a niece.

Excepted from the general trust is the property which Sidney Dillon gave to the testator power to dispose of by will. That

testator power to dispose of by will. That property goes to his wife and children in PRESIDENT HARPER HERE.

Bound for Lakewood and Will Undergo X-Ray Treatment There. President William R. Harper of Chicago University, accompanied by his son, Samiel M. Harper, arrived in New York yesterday afternoon on his way to Lakewood. N. J., where he will be treated with the X-ray for cancer. He intends to complete

the trip to-day. Dr. Harper left Chicago Tuesday afternoon on the Twentieth Century Limited. He endured the journey well. Except for being tired by the long ride, he seemed to feel none the worse on his arrival here. He was joined by Dr. Joseph F. Smith at the Manhattan Hotel, where he stayed over

"We left Chicago," said young Mr. Harper,
"on account of the cold weather. Lakewood
was recommended to us by Dr. Billings.
my father's Chicago physician, whom he
will be fortunate to find there. The doctors give us hope that the X-ray treatment
may effect a cure, or at worst make a great
improvement in my father's health."

Washington Society Notes. WASHINGTON, March 15 .- The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand enter-Mr. and Mrs. Wharton of Philadelphia.

Mrs. John L. Gardner of Boston was the guest of honor at a luncheon given to-day by Mrs. John R. McLean.

The Vice-President and Mrs. Fairbanks, who will go to New York on Saturday, will be the guests of honor at a dinner to be given on that evening by Gen. McCook.

Mrs. Richard Townsend and her daughter. Miss Mathilde Townsend, will sail for Europe on April 11.

Former Secretary of State and Mrs. John

Foster have gone to Aiken, S. C., for a short visit.

Sefior Ojeda, the Minister from Spain to the United States, was the host of a theatre party to-night in honor of Mrs. Seth Barton French of New York, who is the guest of her mother, Mrs. Walker Fearn.

Twelve American Locomotives for Japan. SCRENECTADY, March 15 .- It was an interesting sight in Schenectady yesterday when a long train of flat cars pulled out for New York loaded with Schenectady made locomotives for Japan. The shipment consisted of twelve mogul engines for use on the Kusin Railroad in Japan. Each of the cars bore huge banners with "Locomotives for Japan from the American Locomotive Company" inscribed thereon in letters of such size that a blind man could almost

The engines will leave New York on board the steamship Shimoshu consigned to the grea; firm of Mitsui & Co. of Tokio.

New York Central Survey Finished. SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 15. - Chief Surveyor J. E. Turner and his twelve assist ants who have been surveying the new route of the New York Central Railroad from the Hudson River line to connect with the Boston and Albany Railroad here finished their work to-day. Mr. Turner has for-warded his report to Chief Engineer Ferr-strom of the Central road. It will be several months before final action is taken on the report.

Columbia Seniors Won't Fscape a Thesis The Columbia seniors who want to get their degrees next June will have to write a thesis as a prerequisite to graduation. The seniors' petition to Dean Van Amringe asking that the writing of a thesis be made optional for '05. has brought the reply that the matter could not be decided until the next meeting of the trustees, which will be held after April 2, the last day on which theses can be handed in

Jordan Jimp.

Miss Florence Edith Jimp, daughter of the Rev. M. Deloss Jimp and Thomas Ryan Jordan of this city were married at noon yesterday in of this city were married at noon yesterday in the Methodist Church at Johnstown, T. Mr. Jordan, is the State secretary of the Young Men'st'hristian Association. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. B. C. Miller of Alexandria Bay, a brother-in-law of the bridegroom. There were many New York city friends of Mr. Jordan at the wedding. After a trip abroad Mr. and Mrs. Jordan will reside here.

Justice-Tewnsend.